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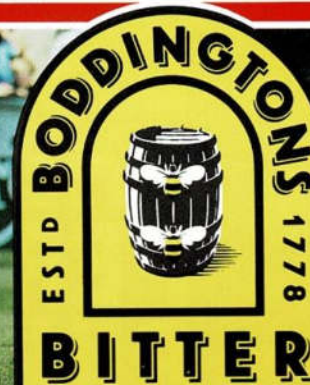


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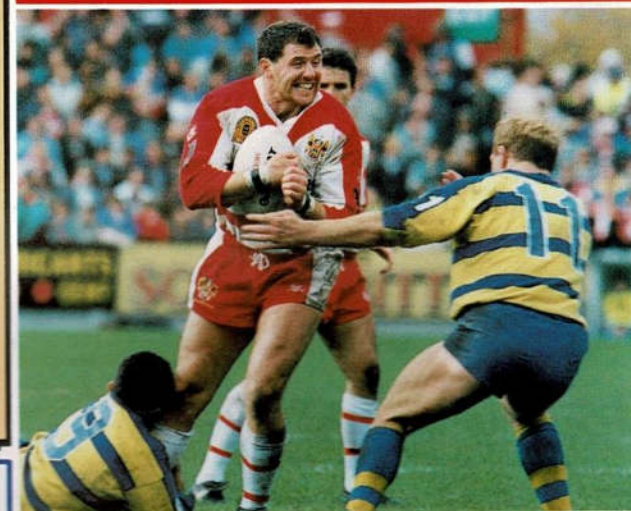
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ON THE BARROW BEAT

by *Oldham coach*
TONY BARROW



RUGBY League has a habit of lifting you up . . . and then knocking you down. I'm sure you all know what I mean judging by our impressive opening-day win over Leeds in the Stones Bitter championship and then our disappointing defeat at Wakefield seven days later.

It was surely a case of . . . after the Lord Mayor's Show!

Against Leeds I was a bit worried when Derek Pyke had to go off with a knee injury as early as the tenth minute, but the players never stopped running and tackling and in the end they thoroughly deserved their victory.

It was an excellent team performance in which several individuals came up with top-class performances.

And so to Wakefield. This was a match which we were capable of winning and one in which I expected us to pick up two precious league points. I say precious because all points are vital in the cut-and-thrust of the First Division.

What happened? We let ourselves down because we failed to repeat the form we displayed against Leeds. In short, we didn't play well enough and if you don't play well you can't expect to be up there among the leaders of the First Division.

Wakefield remained on top by beating us, But I still maintain that it was a match we could and should have won.

We had them on the ropes at 8-4 early in the second half and I am sure that another try at that stage would have finished them off. In the event our attitude was not professional enough and we did not display the killer instinct — a vital commodity, I think, in the First Division.

We failed to play to our strengths and Trinity swung the game with two tries in three minutes. I'm saying nothing about their first try, but we should never have allowed hooker Billy Conway to charge clear from dummy half in the build-up to their second try.

In the First Division you can't always rely on staging a comeback. We tried desperately hard, but it was not to be and the result was that we missed a wonderful opportunity of consolidating on the great start we made against Leeds.

So to Castleford in this evening's rearranged fixture . . . and another hard one. But then I guess they are all hard in this First Division and that's what makes it such an intriguing competition.

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Record Try Scorer: Reg Farrar, 49 tries,
1921-22 season

Record Goal Scorer: Bernard Ganley,
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Record Point Scorer: Bernard Ganley, 28 points
v Liverpool City, April 1959

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Most Tries: Pre 1900, Jack Hirst, 233
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1966-67, 1968-69, 1986-87, 1989-90

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1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58

Runners-up:
1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24,
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SKIPPER'S SPOT

by
Oldham Captain
**Mike
Ford**

A mixed start to the season indeed! After the high of beating Leeds at home we had the low of losing to Wakefield when we missed a great opportunity to follow the momentum of that first League victory.

However, the defeat did show us a few pointers for the rest of the season. For a start, I reckon that 90% of our games will be decided by a single try and it is up to us to ensure that we have that one try advantage at the end of 80 minutes.

It is no good working hard for three quarters of the match only to take the pressure off for ten minutes. It is an 80 minute game and our concentration should cover that whole period.

Remember, we need to get the points in the bag now so we are not looking over our shoulder at relegation after Christmas.

We cannot afford to relax or lose concentration anytime during a match because it will cost us dearly and we'll end up losing games that we could — and should — have won.

Our defence is the key and we need to work harder on that aspect of our game, which I guarantee you we will be.

Rest assured, we will be striving for perfection in defence so we become a very hard team to beat.

Bearing that in mind, we'll be looking to carry on where we left off against Leeds with Castleford tonight and get ourselves back into the winning habit.



ROGER'S FOCUS

*Oldham Evening
Chronicle Rugby
League writer,
Roger Halstead,
looks at today's
visitors*

IN recent seasons Castleford have moved away from their almost exclusive "home made" policy to pay out a small fortune on transfer fees and even bring in a coach from the other side of the world.

It would have been almost unthinkable for Castleford to shell out £150,000 or so on a player in the days of the Wheldon Road H-bombs, Hepworth and Hardisty, when the local talent was in such abundance that a certain Roger Millward was allowed to move on the Hull K.R.

What a contrast to today's team which will probably include one or two overseas men, two of the English games's most expensive buys in Lee Crooks and Graham Steadman, all led by Australian coach Darryl Van De Velde.

Crooks, whose early-season form has suggested that he will be knocking on the door for a Test recall in the forthcoming series against the Kangaroos, cost Cas £150,000 from Leeds last season.

Stand-off Steadman had previously moved from nearby Featherstone for a similar fee with a further £25,000 to be added if Test recognition followed, which it duly did.

More recently, of course, another Castleford link with the club's roots was severed when burly prop-forward Kevin Ward was transferred to St. Helens.

Nevertheless, classy Cas met Wakefield Trinity last Sunday in their seventh Yorkshire Cup final in the last ten years — an impressive record, but one in which Van De Velde would prefer to have seen reflected in Stones Bitter championship successes.

The Aussie boss would like to see the county cup competitions scrapped because he feels they make too many demands on the game's top players who are often asked to play two games in the space of four days at this time of the year.

He also feels that a successful team in the county cup faces an unfair disadvantage in the league.

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Castleford . . .

Steve Larder (full-back) Australian recruit from the Illawarra Steelers Club in Sydney. 26 year old Steve has plenty of experience 'Down Under' and has operated in the threequarter line. A useful goal-kicker and has signed up for the full season.

Shaun Irwin (middle-back) Castleford born product of Redhill A.R.F.C. for whom a big future is predicted. Shaun already has Colts and Gt. Britain Under 21 caps and with a little better luck with injuries should be pushing for Senior level honours.

Grant Anderson (middle-back) Very promising, came via the Colts production line, representing Yorkshire at that level. Grant soon made the Cas 1st team squad and last season ended with him as the clubs leading scorer, on 24, in his first full term. His success was rewarded by Gt. Britain Under 21 honours and a nomination for the young player of the season award.

Giles Boothroyd (threequarters) Giles quickly established himself in the first team squad since signing from local amateur football a couple of seasons back. Yet another who achieved Gt. Britain Under 21 honours last term.

Graham Steadman (stand-off) Close season signing from Featherstone for a record fee of £145,000, which could become a world record fee if Cas have to hand over the extra £25,000 that the tribunal deemed necessary if he gains international status. With York he notched 60 plus tries and over 200 goals in 3½ seasons before a £55,000 move to Featherstone in 1986.

Gary French (scrum-half) Aussie star who has signed a one year contract with Cas. Whilst making his name Gary had a spell with Springfield Borough and was highly rated before injury forced an early return. Normally a Number 7, but has covered for stand-off Wally Lewis at Brisbane and has played in the loose forward role.

Keith England (prop) Another Castleford Colts product who toured Australia at that level with GB before winning caps at Under 24 and then in 1987 and again last term at senior level. Keith or 'Beefy' as he is better known locally plays well above his weight never gives less than 100% and has become one of the clubs most consistent players.

John Joyner (loose forward) Club Captain, John has served Cas loyally for 17 years, he holds a record number of appearances. Most recently in Summer 1988 John received a call up to join GB in Australia, his third tour. He captained Cas to victory at Wembley in 1986 setting a Challenge Cup medal alongside John Player and Yorkshire Cup winning honours. Switches easily between loose forward and stand-off.

St. John Ellis (wing) A new recruit this season from Ryedale-York, started out with Southlands A.R.L. and scored regularly in the 2nd Division with York.

Ian Bragger (centre) A £60,000 buy from Salford who has added strength to the threequarter line. His form at Lawkholme Lane persuaded Salford to give him his 1st Division chance which he took, improving still further his try scoring feats.

Jeff Hardy (stand-off/back row) Aussie star, came to this country with Sheffield Eagles. Cas quickly snapped him up to replace the homeward bound Ron Gibbs. Played stand-off with Eagles but has plenty of back-row experience.

Graham Southwood (hooker) Teenager who has firmly established himself in the first team squad. A record junior signing from Redhill A.R.L. Graham gained selection for the GB Under 21 squad recently.

Lee Crooks (prop) A cup deadline signing from Leeds for a new club record fee of £150,000. It was the second time Lee had commanded this fee, Leeds having paid a similar amount to Hull when they signed him up. A Gt. Britain International at 19 against the 1989 Aussie tourists Lee has totalled 14 caps the last being gained last season.

SUMMER 1991

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**Ronnie
Duane . . .**

This week's PLAYER PROFILE

WHEN Tony Barrow brought Ronnie Duane to Watersheddings this summer he was renewing a partnership that began in 1981 when he as A Team coach of Warrington he signed Ronnie as a 17-year-old.

Ronnie, who is now 27, quickly made a big impression as a centre with Warrington and was in the GB squad for the 1984 Australian tour. Unfortunately disaster struck before he had the chance for international honours when he smashed his knee in a provincial match.

He has been unlucky with injuries ever since — he was recalled to the GB squad in the mid-eighties only to withdraw with a back injury — but is looking forward to a brighter future at Watersheddings.

"My career at Warrington wasn't going in the right direction so when Tony Barrow inquired about me I jumped at the chance. I've worked with Tony and Derek Whitehead already so I know what they are capable of and I know that the side is very good too," said Ronnie, who has played nearly 200 games for Warrington.

With Warrington Ronnie won two Lancashire Cups and a First Division Premiership and anticipates similar success with Oldham.

"The Oldham fans have got a great side here, a fabulous bunch of lads who can do well. After all they were unlucky not to win the Lancashire Cup and get to Wembley last year.

"Let's hope I can do my bit to help Oldham repeat that success. I can start by making sure that I play as often as I can!"



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**WATERSHEDDINGS
WHISPERS**

*General Manager
Ray Hill
reports on the
Watersheddings
scene*

FIRST of all, I'd like to apologise to the Oldham supporters who were offended by the antics of the promotional girls from Sport prior to the Leeds home game. I — like everyone else at the club — was unaware of what was going to happen. Although the damage has been done I will personally make sure that this sort of thing does not happen again.

Despite the setback with the Sport, sponsorship at the club has never been healthier although I am always keen to talk to people and businesses interested in getting involved with the club at whatever level. We have numerous sponsorship packages available, one of which can be tailor made to suit your exact requirements.

These range from Match Sponsor to Ball Sponsor and provide great value for money.

If you want to find out more simply give me a call on 061-620 4870. I look forward to hearing from you!

As I mentioned in the last programme, we're giving readers of the programme a chance to win a dream holiday to Paris. The full details are below. We're also reintroducing our Free Photographic Offer which proved to be so popular last season. Remember all you have to do is collect five vouchers and you get a picture of your favourite Oldham player absolutely free. All you need to do is carry on buying your great value match day programme.

Another successful event from last year being repeated this season is the annual Oldham players reunion. This great occasion takes place on October 7 before the Hull KR home match and promises to be a memorable day. Our invitation is extended to all former players so make sure you come along and enjoy yourselves.

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All you have to do is collect the six vouchers that will be appearing on this page in the next six programmes. When you have all six vouchers send them to us at watersheddings. We'll give you details later.

Q.1. Which two Oldham players played in Australia last summer?

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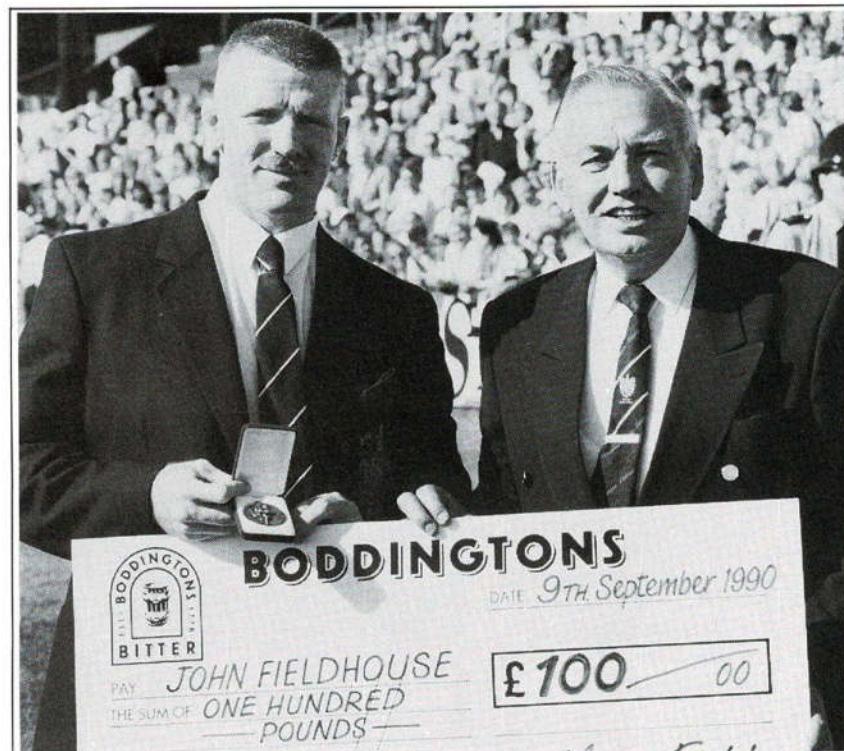
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TOUCH DOWN

Last May's joint winner of the Player of the Month award, John Fieldhouse, receives his medal and a cheque for £100 from Boddingtons Bitter's Ken Regan. John shared the award with Oldham skipper Mike Ford. The winner of the first award of the season will be announced in October.



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throughout the season



BODDINGTONS TEAM CHECK

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th, 1990



OLDHAM

Team Changes

- 1 DUNCAN PLATT
- 2 RICHARD IRVING
- 3 TOMMY MARTYN
- 4 RONNIE DUANE
- 5 PAUL LORD
- 6 BRETT CLARK
- 7 MIKE FORD
- 8 JOHN FIELDHOUSE
- 9 ANDY RUANE
- 10 KEITH NEWTON
- 11 CHARLIE McALISTER
- 12 PAUL ROUND
- 13 JOHN COGGER
- 14 RICHARD RUSSELL
- 15 JOHN FAIRBANK

PENALTIES

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

SCRUMS

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

Referee:
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Touch Judges:
Mr. Phil Houghton (Red Flag)
Mr. Neil Farrimond (Orange Flag)

CASTLEFORD

Team Changes

- 1 STEVE LARDER
- 2 ST. JOHN ELLIS
- 3 SHAUN IRWIN
- 4 GRANT ANDERSON
- 5 DAVID PLANGE
- 6 GRAHAM STEADMAN
- 7 GARY ATKINS
- 8 LEE CROOKS
- 9 GRAHAM SOUTHERNWOOD
- 10 DEAN SAMPSON
- 11 NEIL BATTYE
- 12 JEFF HARDY
- 13 NEIL ROEBUCK
- 14 KEITH ENGLAND
- 15 MARTIN KETTERIDGE

PENALTIES

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OLDHAM STATISTICS 1990/91

Appearances and Scorers

	P	Sub	G	D	T	Pts
Brett Clark	3	0	0	0	1	4
John Cogger	2	0	0	0	0	0
Austin Donegan	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ronnie Duane	3	0	0	0	0	0
John Fairbank	0	1	0	0	0	0
John Fieldhouse	2	0	0	0	0	0
Mike Ford	3	0	1	1	0	3
Des Foy	1	0	0	0	0	0
John Henderson	1	0	0	0	0	0
Richard Irving	3	0	0	0	1	4
Paul Lord	3	0	0	0	1	4
Tommy Martyn	2	1	1	1	2	11
Charlie McAlister	3	0	0	0	2	8
Keith Newton	2	1	0	0	1	4
Duncan Platt	3	0	10	0	1	24
Derek Pyke	1	0	0	0	0	0
Paul Round	3	0	0	0	2	8
Andy Ruane	2	0	0	0	0	0
Richard Russell	1	2	0	0	0	0

Stones Bitter First Division Table 1990/91

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull	3	2	0	0	52	20	1	0	0	24	22	6
Wigan	3	1	1	0	42	20	1	0	0	38	18	5
Wakefield	2	2	0	0	59	18	0	0	0	0	0	4
St. Helens	3	2	0	0	66	30	0	0	1	14	20	4
Widnes	3	1	0	0	41	14	1	0	1	20	42	4
Sheffield	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	42	38	3
Hull KR	3	1	0	0	20	14	0	1	1	24	56	3
OLDHAM	2	1	0	0	32	22	0	0	1	12	17	2
Leeds	3	0	0	1	22	24	1	0	1	44	42	2
Warrington	3	1	0	1	40	34	0	0	1	14	20	2
Bradford	3	0	0	1	10	14	1	0	1	46	48	2
Featherstone	3	0	1	1	38	40	0	0	1	14	41	1
Castleford	2	0	0	1	18	38	0	0	1	12	30	0
Rochdale	3	0	0	1	20	24	0	0	2	8	66	0

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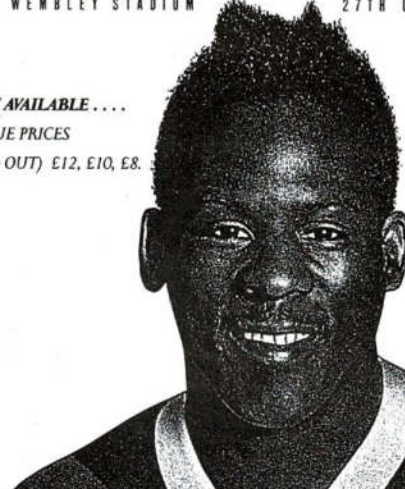
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Opponents	Date	KO	Res	E/A	Att	Pos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Salford	2.9.90	A	3.00	L	24-27	4,236	—	Platt 4g	Irving	Foy	Henderson	Lord	Clark	Ford 4g	Pyke	Russell	Fieldhouse	Round 1	McAlister 1	Duane	Martyn 1	Newton
Leeds	9.9.90	H	3.00	W	32-22	6338	—	Platt 5g	Irving	Martyn 4g 1	Duane	Lord	Ford 11dg	Clark 1	Pyke	Ruane	Newton 1	Round 1	McAlister 1	Cogger	Dongan*	Fairbank*
Wakefield	16.9.90	A	3.30	L	12-17	5651	8	Platt 1g	Irving 1	Martyn	Duane	Lord	Ford	Clark	Fieldhouse	Ruane	Newton	Round	McAlister	Cogger	Russell*	Russell*
Castleford	26.9.90	H	7.30																			
Widnes	30.9.90	A	3.00																			
Hull KR	7.10.90	H	3.00																			
Sheffield	14.10.90	A	3.15																			
Warrington	21.10.90	A	2.45																			
Wigan	4.11.90	A	3.00																			
Bradford N	11.11.90	H	3.00																			
Castleford	18.11.90	A	3.30																			
Widnes	25.11.90	H	3.00																			
Regal Trophy	2.12.90		3.00																			
Regal Trophy	9.12.90		3.00																			
Hull	16.12.90	A	6.30																			
Rochdale	26.12.90	H	3.00																			
Leeds	11.91	A	3.00																			
Featherstone	6.1.91	H	3.00																			
Hull KR	13.1.91	A	3.00																			
Wakefield	20.1.91	H	3.00																			
Featherstone	27.1.91	A	3.30																			
St Helens	3.2.91	H	3.00																			
SCCR 1st Rnd	10.2.91		3.00																			
Bradford	17.2.91	A	3.30																			
SCCR 2nd Rnd	24.2.91		3.00																			
St Helens	10.3.91	A	3.00																			
Sheffield	17.3.91	H	3.00																			
Rochdale	29.3.91	H	3.00																			
Wigan	14.4.91	H	3.00																			
Warrington	7.4.91	A	3.00																			
Hull	14.4.91	H	3.00																			

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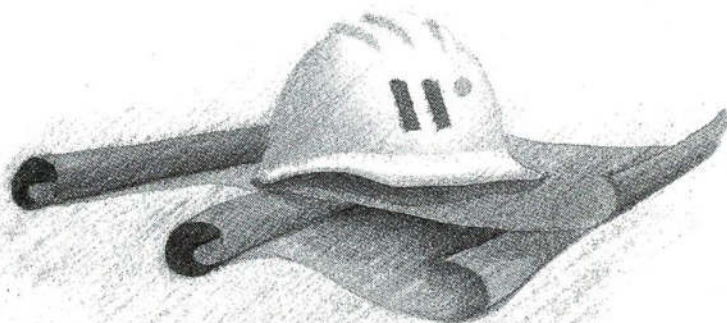
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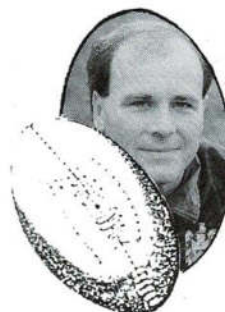
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A-TEAM ROUND-UP



*The
Coach's
View*

A crowd of more than 1,300 attended our first Slalom Lager Alliance division one match against St. Helens which produced the right result but a not-too-convincing performance.

It also marked the return of John Cogger and I'm sure that, like me, you were pleased to see him back in the old routine.

The outstanding player on the night was Austin Donegan, who not only scored two tries against his former club but also created another. The two points we gained from this victory was the start we needed, although it was a stop-go game.

Our first visit away game took us to Headingley and although we played and tackled much better the result went away from us. This was a disastrous night for our two second-row forwards, but for vastly different reasons.

Shaun Allen received his marching orders midway through the first half. The look on his face said it all. It was a case of mistaken identity but the disciplinary committee did not uphold his claim and he was subsequently suspended for two matches.

Then, in the second half, Keith Atkinson received a serious knee injury which could keep him out of action until Christmas. I am sure you will all join us in wishing Keith all the best for a speedy recovery.

Our third game was against Wakefield at Watersheddings. We won again, but again it was not very convincingly. The crowd was magnificent once more — 1,442 — and I can assure you that the players really appreciate your backing.

One of the positive things to emerge was the form and finishing power of Norman Francis, our new winger from Leeds, who scored two tries and set up another for Tony Barrow.

We are drawn at home to Workington in the first round of the Lancashire County Shield and if we win that we will be at home again to the winners of the Warrington v Wigan clash.

The first-round draw is: Warrington v Wigan; St. Helens v Fulham; Farnworth ROB (amateurs) v Trafford; Salford v Whitehaven; OLDHAM v Workington; Barrow v Widnes; Leigh v Rochdale Hornets; Swinton v Carlisle.

IAN TAYLOR

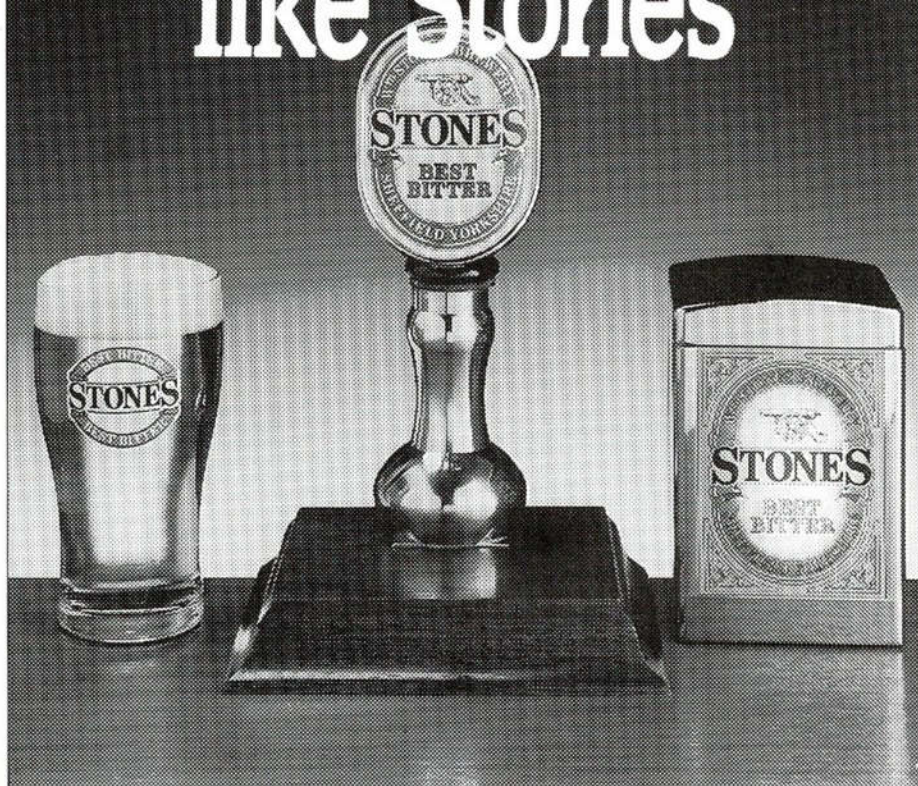
Slalom Lager Alliance Fixtures

Date	Opponents	Venue	Res	F A
Aug 31	St Helens	H	W	32-8
Sept 7	Leeds	A	L	12-18
14	Wakefield	H	W	18-12
21	Salford	A	W	22-17
28	Widnes	H		
Oct 5	Workington (Lancashire Shield)			
11	Leigh (Thurs)	A		
20	Lancashire Shield (Sat)			
Nov 2	Wigan	H		
9	Widnes	A		
16	Salford	H		
23	Castleford	A		
30	Warrington	H		
Dec 7	Wigan	A		
14	Hull	H		
21	Halifax	A		
28	Leeds	H		
Jan 4	Featherstone	A		
11	Hull KR	H		
18	Wakefield	A		
25	Featherstone	H		
Feb 1	St Helens	A		
8	Castleford	H		
16	Alliance Cup (Sat)			
22	Hull	A		
Mar 2	Alliance Cup (Sat)			
8	Halifax	H		
15	Warrington	A		
22	Hull KR	A		
29	Leigh	H		

Slalom Lager Alliance First Division League Table as at 18.9.90

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull	3	3	0	0	96	45	6
Widnes	3	3	0	0	73	46	6
Hull KR	3	3	0	0	80	64	6
Salford	3	2	0	1	59	34	4
Leeds	3	2	0	1	57	36	4
OLDHAM	3	2	0	1	62	58	4
Wigan	3	1	0	2	62	42	2
Leigh	3	1	0	2	66	68	2
Halifax	3	1	0	2	62	66	2
Featherstone	3	1	0	2	66	79	2
St. Helens	3	1	0	2	72	93	2
Castleford	3	1	0	2	60	108	2
Warrington W	3	0	0	3	68	92	0
Wakefield T	3	0	0	3	26	78	0

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John Woods' Record

Congratulations to John Woods who set a new Leigh career points record when he took his total to 2,200 with three goals in the recent 16 - 6 division two home defeat against Halifax. His record breaking total consists of 138 tries and 878 goals including 11 drop goals. Former full back Jim Ledger previously held the record with 2,194 points.

*Our regular
review of
what's
happening in
the world of
Rugby
League*

Top Scorers

Hull KR's winger Andy Sullivan is the first player to reach double figures in the try scoring list this season having scored ten tries in six outings.

Top points scorer is Widnes' Jonathan Davies with 30 goals and eight tries for a total of 92 points.

Castleford Milestone

Before last Sunday's Yorkshire Cup Final, Castleford's John Joyner needed two tries for a double century career total of 200.

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GRASS ROOTS

*Iain
McCorquodale
looks at
Rugby League
around Oldham*

THE Lancashire Cup draws saw the Oldham schools town teams with four home ties recently.

On Friday night as curtain raiser to the recent 'A' team home game against Wakefield the U15 team moved comfortably into the semi-final with a 24-14 win over their opponents, Saints, who had two players with famous fathers — Stephen Barrow, son of Frankie, and Gareth Cunningham, son of Eddie, but it was the Oldham half backs, Richard Badby and John Hough, who ran the show with Philip McAndrew and two-try Andrew Delves outstanding.

At U13 level forwards Paul Sculthorpe and Michael Slicker set Oldham up for a 29-6 victory over St. Helens but at U16 a Wigan side oozing class, pace and power had no difficulty in turning an 8-0 half time lead into a convincing 42-0 victory.

At U11's, Wigan also gained victory — this time by 16-4 as a Danny Scunthorpe inspired Oldham side worked hard but just lacked the finesse to earn victory.

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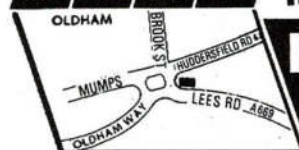
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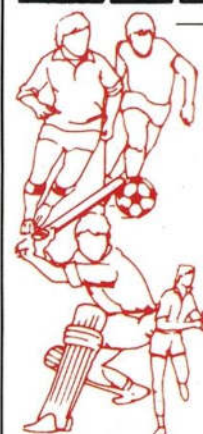
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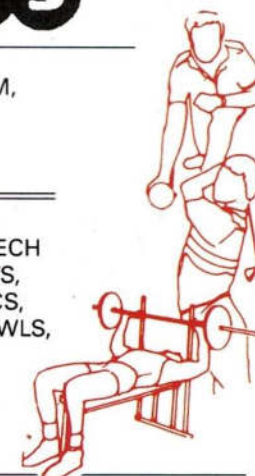
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